REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the subject application as amended herein. This Amendment is submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed October 9, 2007. Claims 1-29 stand rejected. In this Amendment, claims 1, 3-8, 10-13, 15-20, 22, 23, 25, 26, 28 and 29 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

35 U.S.C. §101

The Examiner has rejected claims 26-29 under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The specification has been amended to clarify that the term "machine readable storage medium" is limited to tangible media.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bugnion, et al., (U.S. Patent No. 6,496,847, hereinafter "Bugnion"), in view of Schneider, et al., (U.S. Patent No. 5,488,716, hereinafter "Schneider"). As discussed below, the pending claims are patentable over the above references.

Bugnion discloses a system architecture with multiple virtual machine monitors (VMMs), each supporting a respective virtual machine (VM). However, Bugnion does not teach or suggest designating multiple VMMs to support various privileged events. Much less does Bugnion teach or suggest determining which of the VMMs should handle a currently-detected privileged event based on a characteristic of the detected privileged event and/or characteristics of the VMMs, and transitioning control to this VMM, as claimed in the present invention. Thus, Bugnion lacks all the pertinent features of the present invention.

Schneider does not help Bugnion to render the presently claimed invention unpatentable. Schnedier discloses having multiple VMMs. However, Schneider does not teach or suggest designating **multiple** VMMs to handle privileged events. In contrast Schneider specifically

states that all interrupts are handled by a **single** VMM: "All interrupts are handled by the VMM

134." (col. 5, line 57) Much less does Schneider teach or suggest determining which of the

VMMs should handle a currently-detected privileged event based on a characteristic of the

detected privileged event and/or characteristics of the VMMs, and transitioning control to this

VMM, as claimed in the present invention. Thus, Bugnion and Schneider, taken alone or in

combination, do not teach or suggest the pertinent features of the present invention that are

included in the following language of claim1:

> ... detecting an occurrence of one of a plurality of privileged events in a virtual
> machine (VM) environment having guest software and a plurality of virtual machine
> monitors (VMMs), wherein the plurality of VMMs is designated to handle the plurality
> of privileged events that cannot be handled by the guest software in the VM
> environment;
> determining which one of the plurality of VMMs is to handle the detected
> privileged event based on at least one of a characteristic of the detected privileged event
> or characteristics of the VMMs; and
> transitioning control to said one of the plurality of VMMs.

Similar limitations are also included in independent claims 13, 20 and 26. Thus, the

present invention as claimed in claims 1, 13, 20 and 26, and their corresponding dependent

claims, is patentable over the cited references. Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of

the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), and submits that the pending claims are in condition for

allowance.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT AUTHORIZATION

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicant hereby requests such extension.

If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Marina Portnova at (408) 720-8300.

Respectfully submitted,

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